

Claim amendments

Please enter the following claim amendments, which consist of the cancellation of claims 5, 7 and 13, the amendment of claims 4, 6, 8, 10, and 15-22, and the addition of claim 23. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

1 (original): A method of evaluating an individual for relative genetic risk for autism, the method comprising determining the individual's genotype at polymorphism sites rs2056202 and/or rs2292813 of the SLC25A12 gene, wherein the presence of a G at either of the two sites indicates an increased risk for autism, and the presence of an increasing number of G's at the sites indicates an increasing risk for autism.

2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the genotype are determined by one or more methods selected from the group consisting of single strand conformation polymorphism, denaturing high performance liquid chromatography, DNA Invader, and polymerase chain reaction amplification followed by sequencing.

3 (original): The method of claim 1, using polymerase chain reaction amplification with at least one primer comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, and SEQ ID NO:8.

4 (currently amended): A set of two primers suitable for use in polymerase chain reaction, one primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and the other primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 and the other primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

5 (canceled)

6 (currently amended): A kit comprising at least one set of primers suitable for use in polymerase chain reaction (PCR), wherein the set of primers amplifies polymorphism site rs2056202 or rs2292813 of the SLC25A12 gene.

7 (canceled)

8 (currently amended): The kit of claim 6, further comprising a second set of primers suitable for use in PCR, ~~A kit comprising at least two sets of primers suitable for use in polymerase chain reaction (PCR),~~ wherein one set of primers amplifies polymorphism site rs2056202 of the SLC25A12 gene and the second set of primers amplifies polymorphism site rs2292813 of the SLC25A12 gene.

9 (original): The kit of claim 8, wherein one set of primers consists of a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and the second set of primers consists of a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 and a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

10 (currently amended): The kit of ~~any one of claims 6-9~~ claim 6, further comprising instructions for using the ~~two sets of~~ primers to evaluate an individual for relative genetic risk for autism by determining the genotype of the polymorphism site ~~polymorphic sites rs2056202 and/or rs2292813~~ of the SLC25A12 gene.

11 (original): A polynucleotide consisting of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, and SEQ ID NO:4.

12 (original): A method of identifying a form of a genetic polymorphism that is linked to autism, the method comprising identifying a polymorphism in the SLC25A12 gene and determining whether one form of the polymorphism is present in autistic

individuals more than another form, wherein the form that is present more often in autism is linked to autism.

13 (canceled)

14. A eukaryotic cell comprising a transgenic human SLC25A12 gene.

15 (currently amended): The eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the transgenic SLC25A12 gene comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and/or SEQ ID NO:4.

16 (currently amended): The eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the cell is a yeast cell.

17 (currently amended): The eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

18 (currently amended): The eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

19 (currently amended): The mammalian cell of claim ~~15~~ 17, wherein the cell is in a living mammal.

20 (currently amended): A non-human animal comprising the eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14.

21 (currently amended): The non-human animal of claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein the animal is a mammal.

22 (currently amended): A method of evaluating whether a compound affects autism, the method comprising contacting the compound with the eukaryotic cell of claim ~~12~~ 14 and determining whether the compound affects expression or activity of a product of the SLC25A12 gene, wherein a compound that affects expression or activity of the product of the SLC25A12 gene affects autism.

23 (new): The kit of claim 6, wherein the set of primers consists of a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 and a primer comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

Remarks

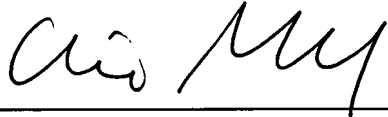
With the above amendments, there are 6 independent claims and 20 total claims. The fee for the three excess independent claims is provided in the enclosed check.

Enclosed is an Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein check for \$730, which is the sum of the \$130 surcharge for late submission of the Declaration, and \$600 for the three excess independent claims (large entity). It is believed that no additional fee is required with this Reply. However, if there are unanticipated fees required to maintain pendency of this application, the USPTO is authorized to withdraw the payment for those fees from Deposit Account 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted

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